



News Release

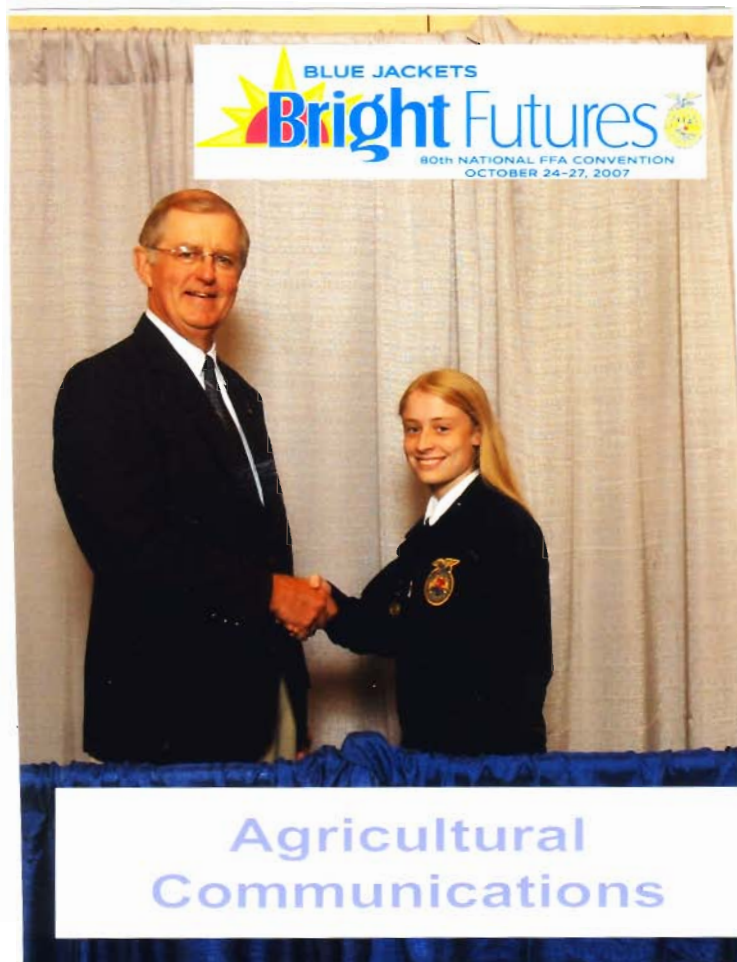
**80th National FFA Convention
October 24-27, 2007
Indianapolis, Indiana**

For Immediate Release To Local Newspaper
Contact: Local Agricultural Instructor
October 25, 2007

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Kristina Maria Simmons to Compete in Agricultural Communications - Entrepreneurship/Placement Proficiency Award Program at National Convention

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Kristina Maria Simmons of Mattabeset FFA Chapter, in Connecticut was named a national finalist in the Agricultural Communications - Entrepreneurship/Placement Proficiency award program in July, 2007. Four finalists will compete to be named the national winner during the 80th National FFA Convention, October 24-27, in Indianapolis, IN.



Patrick Anthony Cocchiarella to Compete in Floriculture - Entrepreneurship/Placement Proficiency Award Program at National Convention

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Patrick Anthony Cocchiarella of Woodbury FFA Chapter, in Connecticut was named a national finalist in the Floriculture - Entrepreneurship/Placement Proficiency award program in July, 2007. Four finalists will compete to be named the national winner during the 80th National FFA Convention, October 24-27, in Indianapolis, IN.

Proficiency awards recognize FFA members who excelled as agricultural entrepreneurs, employees or volunteers while they gained hands-on career experience. Floriculture - Entrepreneurship/Placement is one of 47 FFA proficiency award categories offered at local, state and national levels. Floriculture - Entrepreneurship/Placement proficiency award program is sponsored by **National FFA Foundation**, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. In recognition of being a finalist, each of the four finalists will receive a plaque and \$500. The national winner of the Floriculture - Entrepreneurship/Placement will receive an additional \$500 during a special ceremony at the national FFA convention.

Developing a love of gardening early working alongside his mother, Nonnewaug FFA member Patrick Cocchiarella has also developed an intense interest in greenhouse climate regulation. In addition to fulfilling plant management duties at a local greenhouse near his home in Connecticut, he also maintains and operates the various automated systems that sustain the plants' environment. Cocchiarella plans to pursue a degree in horticulture at Cornell University. Cocchiarella is the son of Pat and Jeanne and his FFA advisors are Eric Birkenberger, Bill Davenport and Cindy Chotkowski



Runyon D. Lewis to Compete in Nursery Operations - Entrepreneurship/Placement Proficiency Award Program at National Convention

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Runyon D. Lewis of Suffield Regional FFA Chapter, in Connecticut was named a national finalist in the Nursery Operations - Entrepreneurship/Placement Proficiency award program in July, 2007. Four finalists will compete to be named the national winner during the 80th National FFA Convention, October 24-27, in Indianapolis, IN.

Proficiency awards recognize FFA members who excelled as agricultural entrepreneurs, employees or volunteers while they gained hands-on career experience. Nursery Operations - Entrepreneurship/Placement is one of 47 FFA proficiency award categories offered at local, state and national levels. Nursery Operations - Entrepreneurship/Placement proficiency award program is sponsored by **Dodge Trucks and Landmark Nurseries, Inc.**, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. In recognition of being a finalist, each of the four finalists will receive a plaque and \$500. The national winner of the Nursery Operations - Entrepreneurship/Placement will receive an additional \$500 during a special ceremony at the national FFA convention.

Suffield Regional Agriscience Center FFA member Runyon Lewis held positions both with a 42-acre container farm and a small field growing nursery operation. As the facilities themselves were very different both in design and purpose, he acquired an extremely broad skill set in the areas of irrigation and nursery operations. Lewis designed an overhead irrigation system for the container farm using a two-acre natural springs fed pond as the water's source. Meanwhile, at the smaller facility he acquired knowledge in plant identification, soil analysis, and flowering schedules. The Connecticut FFA member plans to attend automotive school to become a foreign car mechanic. Lewis is the son of Steven and Ann and his FFA advisors are Laura LaFlamme and Ann Willard .



**Paige Elizabeth Zielinski to Compete in
Agricultural Education - Entrepreneurship/Placement
Proficiency Award Program at National Convention**

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Paige Elizabeth Zielinski of Woodbury FFA Chapter, in Connecticut was named a national finalist in the Agricultural Education - Entrepreneurship/Placement Proficiency award program in July, 2007. Four finalists will compete to be named the national winner during the 80th National FFA Convention, October 24-27, in Indianapolis, IN.

Proficiency awards recognize FFA members who excelled as agricultural entrepreneurs, employees or volunteers while they gained hands-on career experience. Agricultural Education - Entrepreneurship/Placement is one of 47 FFA proficiency award categories offered at local, state and national levels. Agricultural Education - Entrepreneurship/Placement proficiency award program is sponsored by **The James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation; The Lincoln Electric Company**, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. In recognition of being a finalist, each of the four finalists will receive a plaque and \$500. The national winner of the Agricultural Education - Entrepreneurship/Placement will receive an additional \$500 during a special ceremony at the national FFA convention.





**News Release
80th National FFA
Convention
October 24-27, 2007**

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For Immediate Release
Contact Local Advisor

**Kristina Maria Simmons
Named National Winner in the 2007 National FFA
Agricultural Communications - Entrepreneurship/Placement
Proficiency Award Program**

Kristina Maria Simmons , 17, of the Mattabeset FFA Chapter, in Connecticut was named the national winner of the Agricultural Communications - Entrepreneurship/Placement Proficiency award program at the 80th National FFA Convention, Oct. 24-27,2007, in Indianapolis, IN.

Proficiency awards recognize FFA members who excelled as agricultural entrepreneurs, employees or volunteers while they gained hands-on career experience. Agricultural Communications - Entrepreneurship/Placement is one of 47 FFA proficiency award categories offered at local, state and national levels. Agricultural Communications - Entrepreneurship/Placement proficiency award program is sponsored by National FFA Foundation, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

FFA is a national youth organization of 495,046 student members preparing for leadership careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture with 7,242 local chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.